

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 SSC-01 /034 W
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R 161200Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9592
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 6648

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PINR, AF
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER AMIN REVEALS MORE FEATURES OF THE
AFGHAN LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

REF: A. KABUL 6155; B. KABUL 5958; C. KABUL 5170

1. WHEN I CALLED ON AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTER HAFIZULLAH AMIN ON AUGUST 14, I ASKED HIM ABOUT RECENT NEWS REPORTS THAT THE POLITIBURO OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF AFGHANISTAN (PDPA) HAD DECIDED TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF THE PARTY'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE. AMIN REPLIED THAT THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE HAS NOW BEEN INCREASED TO "ABOUT FORTY" PERSONS. IN RESPONSE TO ANOTHER QUERY, HE SAID THAT MANY, BUT NOT ALL, CABINET MINISTERS ARE NOW MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

2. AT MY URGING, AMIN LISTED THE MEMBERS OF THE POLITIBURO AS FOLLOWS:

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NOOR MOHAMMAD TARAQI, CHAIRMAN OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AND PRIME MINISTER;
HAFIZULLAH AMIN, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS;
DR. SHAH WALI, MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH;
DASTAGIR PANJSHIRI, MINISTER OF EDUCATION;

SULAIMAN LAIQ, MINISTER OF RADIO AND TELEVISION;
DR. SALEH MOHAMMAD ZIRI, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE;
DR. ABDUL KARIM MISAQ, MINISTER OF FINANCE;
MOHAMMAD HASSAN BAREQ-SHAFEYE, MINISTER OF CULTURE AND
INFORMATOON.

3. COMMENT: AMIN'S LIST OF AUGUST 14, WHICH HE
INDICATED WAS COMPLETE, CONTAINS ONLY EIGHT NAMES.
ON JULY 20, HE TOLD ME THAT THE POLITBURO HAD NINE
MEMBERS, INCLUDING THE DIPLOMATICALLY EXILED PARCHAMIST
NOOR AHMAD NOOR, NOW AMBASSADOR AT WASHINGTON (REFTEL B).
THE KHALQIST LEADERSHIP EVIDENTALLY NO LONGER FINDS
IT NECESSARY TO KEEP PARCAHMISTS IN THE POLITBURO,
EVEN ON A TOKEN BASIS. IF NOOR HAD STILL BEEN A
MEMBER OF JULY 20, THEN FORMER VICE CHAIRMAN BABRAK
KARMAL POSSIBLY HAD BEEN, AS WELL. THEREFORE, ONE
OF THE CURRENT EIGHT MIGHT BE A RECENT ADDITION.

4. AT THE TIME OF THE JUNE PURGE OF THE PARCHAMIST
FACTION, WE NOTED THAT LAIQ AND BAREQ-SHAFEYE, BOTH
OF WHOM WERE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN PARCHAMISTS AT
ONE TIME, HAD APPARENTLY MADE SOME ACCOMMODATION
WITH THE KHALQIST VICTORS (REFTEL C). THEIR
CURRENT PRESENCE ON THE POLITBURO INDICATES THAT
THEIR SWITCH WAS FOUND ACCEPTABLE.

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